

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
Monday, June 24, 2019**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, June 24, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The meeting was held by Webex. Below are the minutes from the meeting.

Note taker: Noni Robinson —DC Health Representative

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:14 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Attendance Via Webex:

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member  
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert, Chair  
Commissioner Jennifer Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member  
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member  
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member  
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member  
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative  
Suzanne Henley —Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative  
Commissioner Gwendolyn West-Lactation Expert  
Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda—Community Outreach Expert

Absent:

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert  
Emily Woody—DC Health Representative  
Tamika Cambridge —DC Department of Human Resources Representative  
Quamiece Harris —DC Department of Human Services Representative  
Commissioner Stephanie Hack—Obstetrics/Gynecology (OB/GYN) Member

**III. Adoption of Agenda**

DC Breastfeeding Coalition Breastfeeding Week was added to the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commission Tender and seconded by Commissioner Stowers.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from June 2019 Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Propst-Riddick, pending the following revisions:

- Under Old Business, capitalize the company name Pacify.
- For New Business, correct the statement that the National Breastfeeding Month is in August. Also, there are no abbreviations are to be used in the minutes.
- Under Future Meetings, Webex only meetings will continue through September 2019. In-person meetings will resume in October 2019.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. 2018 Annual Report Final Recommendations**

As part of her debrief from maternity leave, Emily Wood spoke with Chief Amelia Peterson-Kosecki regarding the status of the Annual Report. The Commission discussed three outstanding issues and finalized on the following:

1. DC Health’s website to present information and data about breastfeeding similar to other states Department of Health websites, such as Texas and New York. DC Health has limited resources to manager this. Commissioner Long suggested that DC Health subscribe to CDC Syndication where data will automatically sync.
2. Utilizing existing public hotlines such as Pacify instead creating a new one. The Commission agreed with this suggestion. This will be more cost-effective, however DC Health may need to support the expansion of Pacify’s services.

The Commission discussed the need to have greater clarity from DC Health on next steps once the report is finalized and approved. The Commission requested a formal presentation from DC Health in response to the recommendations included in the report..

### **B. Social Impact Designers and Breastfeeding Study**

The research is now a no-go, as the designers were unable to secure funding.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Government Representatives Updates – 10 min per Representative, if any**

#### OSSE

Suzanne Henly shared that the development of Breastfeeding Standards for Child Development Facilities is still in progress. OSSE is currently working with providers to increase their understanding of the standards. OSSE expects to formally launch the standards in 2020.

OSSE’s Health and Wellness initiative is working with the Commission to assess how it may support the development a K-12 curriculum. DC Public Schools will need to review the curriculum and adapt. There is concern about using the term “breast” with children, and how to help teachers navigate the terminology as not all student have health teachers and the curriculum is not used in health class. Commission West suggested that the curriculum states that humans are mammals and mammals feed from their memory gland.” Before adopting the curriculum, the District may need to seek approval from New York.

OSSE is looking into how breastmilk can be stored in child development facilities.

Suzanne also shared that Thrive by Five is organizing the next Mayor’s Maternal and Infant Summit. The focus of the event will focus on food and nutrition. A kick-off meeting will be held

at FRAC. Commission West suggested that other food partners are Sustainable DC, and DCBFC. The event will be held on September 10.

#### DC Health

Noni Robinson shared that on June 11-12, Local Agency Director's and Peer Counselor's attended the Designated Breastfeeding Expert Training by USDA in Crystal City. Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Meeting were reintroduced Sharon Wright IBCLC and her duties assisting the WIC clinics and Peer Counselors.

#### DCHF

Colleen Sonosky shared that the final transmittal is with the Operations Administration who will give final instructions on how IBCLCs can enroll with DC Medicare and lactation consultation services. This is going through a review process. Once complete, Colleen suggested that a member of the Operation Administration attend the July meeting to give a presentation.

### B. Sub-Committee Updates

#### Education and Outreach Committee

The committee is working with OSSE on the K-12 curriculum. There are no additional updates.

#### Human Milk Committee

This committee still does not have a member. There are no updates.

#### Lactation Support Services Committee

The committee shared its interest in knowing more about the next steps of the Annual Report once it is approved by DC Health, specifically those items that have a funding request. There are no additional updates.

### C. National Breastfeeding Month

Several groups are planning events for the moth. Some of these include:

- DCBFC, with pending support from DC Health and in partnership with the Breastfeeding Center of Greater Washington will host a Global Latch-On event on August. The event will be similar to last year's event in and will include a panel discussion and raffle.
- In celebration of Black Breastfeeding Week, there will be a screening of the film, Chocolate Milk, at the Howard Theater on August 25.
- DC Health will market events on its website. Last year text messaging was also used.

### D. Vacancies – Chair, Public Health Expert

Dr. Amira Roess' Public Health Expert position remains vacant on the Lactation Commission.

Commissioner Angela McClain would like to step down as Chair of the Commission. Commission Propst-Riddick suggested the Commission consider a Vice Chair position to balance the workload.

#### E. Revisions to By-Laws

Due to time constraints, this topic was tabled for the next meeting.

#### **VII. Opportunity for Public Comment -**

There were no public attendees and comments were offered.

#### **VIII. Review of Action Items**

- Revisions to June minutes
- Noni: Review DC Health's website to determine what breastfeeding materials are on website
- Noni: DC Health to promote Breastfeeding Month Activities on website
- Seek Amira's replacement
- Commissioner Sieswerda to research other States breastfeeding Curricula and share with the Commission
- DCBFC: Program Development Committee to review New York State curriculum
- Angela will send updates about the Annual Report before the next meeting.

#### **IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting**

The Commission will review the by-laws at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be by Webex on Monday, August 26, 2019 from 6pm – 8pm.

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.